

Allison Formanack, PhD

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EDUCATION

2018 **Ph.D., Anthropology**, University of Colorado, Boulder
Dissertation, [Mobile Home on the Range: Manufacturing Ruin and Respect in an American Zone of Abandonment](#)

2011 **M.A., Anthropology, distinction**, University of Colorado, Boulder

2009 **B.A., Anthropology, History, high distinction**, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Senior Thesis, Body Modification Practices among Select Ethnic Groups of Western Africa

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Homes and Housing, United States, Applied Anthropology, Environmental Anthropology, Biocultural Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, Materiality and Material Culture, Critical Whiteness/Race Theory, Class Inequality and Poverty, Financialization and Urban Governance

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024-current **Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology**, Department of Anthropology
Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado

2020-2024 **Assistant Professor of Anthropology**, Social Science & Global Studies
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

2019-2020 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Center for Humanistic Inquiry
Visiting Lecturer, Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts

2019 **Instructor**, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Front Range Community College, Fort Collins, Colorado

2014-2018 **Graduate Part-Time Instructor (GPTI)**, Department of Anthropology
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024 **Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program** (EPA-G2024-STAR-D1), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (*pending*)

	<i>Project Title:</i> “Fenceline narratives: co-designing processes to integrate air quality and ethnographic data for community wellbeing.”
	Provost Faculty Fellow , Carneige Community Engaged Classification Project, University of Southern Mississippi (awarded)
	Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Faculty Fellow , Center for Faculty Development, University of Southern Mississippi
2023	AAA Leadership Fellow , American Anthropological Association
2022	Service-Learning Faculty Fellow , Center for Community Engagement, University of Southern Mississippi
2020	Franklin Research Grant , American Philosophical Society <i>Project Title:</i> “Manufacturing Ruin: An Ethnographic Analysis of Trailers and Tiny Houses as an Object of Urban Governance.”
2017	Dissertation Completion Fellowship , University of Colorado, Boulder
	Graduate Student Research Award , Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder
2014	Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant , National Science Foundation (BCS-1421510) <i>Project Title:</i> “Changing Attitudes toward Home Ownership, Risk, and Resilience Following the Housing Market Collapse.”
	Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant , University of Colorado, Boulder
2013	Center to Advance Research and Training in the Social Sciences (CARTSS) Research Award , University of Colorado, Boulder
2010	Goldstein-Altman Grant for Research in Cultural Anthropology , Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder
	Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship , Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI), Boston University <i>Language Emphasis:</i> Yoruba

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

In preparation Mobile Haunts: Impermanence in America's Mobile Home Parks. University of Nebraska Press, *proposal under review*.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

In preparation “Parking While White: Mobile-homeownership, #vanlife, and the classed aesthetics of whiteness.” In preparation for *American Ethnologist*.

Resubmitted “Places that Matter: Mapping ruin and risk for urban manufactured-homeowners.” *Formanack, A., and S. Young.* Invited article for *Urban Studies*

Journal. Special issue, “Manufacturing the Urban: Manufactured Housing and Manufactured Home Parks.” Esther Sullivan, Zachary Lamb, and Andrew Rumbach, special guest eds. Planned publication May 2026 (Vol. 63:7).

2023 “Race, class, and place modify mortality rates for the top 12 causes of death, 1999-2021.” **Formanack, A.**, A. Doshi, R. Valdez, I. Williams, R. Moorman, and P. Chernyavskiy. *The Journal of General Internal Medicine*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-023-08062-1>

2022 “Little White Lies: Hope and Untruth in (White) Mobile-Homeownership.” *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* 25(2): 94-113. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/nad.12170>

2020 “Property without Prosperity: Subjective Valuation, Financial Citizenship, and Negotiating Moral Personhood among Manufactured Homeowners.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 43(1): 54-68. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12181>

2018 “This Land is My Land: Absence and Ruination in the American Dream of (Mobile) Homeownership.” *City & Society* 30(3): 293-317. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12271>

BOOK CHAPTERS

Under review “Home-Made Renegades: The Hidden History of Tiny Homes (1890-1940).” In *Reframing the American Dream: Living Tiny and Free*. Shawn Bingham, ed. Under contract with Fordham University Press.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2020 “Response: Ethnographies of Urban Absence.” *City & Society Forum*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ciso.12271>

2020 Review of “Caravans: Lives on Wheels in Contemporary Europe” by Hege Høyler Leivestad. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9655.13300>

2016 “Mobile Home Community Closures Preferred Despite Worsening Housing Crisis.” *Anthropology News* 57(1-2): 14. URL: https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/j.1556-3502.2016.570104_s.x

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 (Planned) **PANEL TITLE**. Roundtable discussion. Society for Applied Anthropology, March 25-29, Portland, Oregon.

2023 “Transitions in Residency.” Virtual roundtable. American Anthropological Association, November 11, Toronto, Ontario.

2022	<p><u>“Think Small, Dream Big: #VanLife, Minimalism, and Neoliberal Fantasy.”</u> Poster. American Anthropological Association, November 11, Seattle, Washington.</p>
2021	<p><u>“Lien-to-Own: How taxation and title ambiguity risks home loss for manufactured home owners.”</u> Virtual paper. American Association of Geographers, April 10, Seattle, Washington.</p>
2019	<p>“Publishing Strategies for Grad Students (That Your Advisor Doesn’t Know).” Panelist. American Anthropological Association, November 22, Vancouver, British Columbia.</p> <p>“Roundtable on City & Society Best Paper of 2018 Award Winner: Allison Formanack’s ‘This Land is My Land.’” Discussant. American Anthropological Association, November 22, Vancouver, British Columbia.</p>
	<p>“New Manufactured Housing Research.” Panelist. I’M HOME Conference, November 18, Portland, Oregon.</p>
2018	<p>“Stories from the Field: The Impact of Displacement.” Speaker, Panel Moderator. I’M HOME Conference, December 4, Nashville, Tennessee.</p> <p>“That Could Be Me: Solidarity, Reflexivity, and Ethics in Autoethnography.” Paper. American Anthropological Association, November 16, San Jose, California.</p> <p><u>“The Curious Case of Chattel Financing and Manufactured Housing: Ethnographic Evidence from Nebraska and Colorado Mobile-Homeowners.”</u> Plenary paper. Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision-Making, May 21, Boulder, Colorado.</p> <p><u>“Hidden in Plain Sight: How census-level data mask health risks in urban mobile home communities.”</u> Invited poster. American Association of Physical Anthropologists, April 14, Austin, Texas.</p>
2017	<p>“Bad Blood: Figurations of White/Trailer Trash in Diversifying Mobile Home Communities.” Paper. American Anthropological Association, November 30, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>“Hidden in Plain Sight: Urban Boundary-Making and the Erasure of Mobile-Homeowners.” Paper. University of Colorado-Boulder Graduate Student Conference, “Borders: Boundaries, Barriers, and Transgression in Anthropology,” September 29, Boulder, Colorado.</p> <p><u>“Examining Mobile-Homeownership in Urban Land-Lease Mobile Home Communities: An Anthropological Perspective.”</u> Poster. Summer Conference on Consumer Financial Decision-Making, May 21, Boulder, Colorado.</p> <p><u>“The Wrong Side of the Tracks: How Sociocultural Expectations Produce Vulnerability and Risk for Urban Mobile Home Dwellers.”</u> Invited poster.</p>

American Association of Physical Anthropologists, April 19, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2016 "Dear Valued Resident: How Agents of Precarity Express Expectation and Threat." Paper. American Anthropological Association, November 16, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2015 "A Different Brand of Loser: Reputation and the Transitioning Mobile Home Community Business Model." Paper. American Anthropological Association, November 20, Denver, Colorado.

2014 "The Pre-'Promise' Process: Supporting Intercommunity Collaboration and Communication in Planning Neighborhood Revitalization." Paper. American Anthropological Association, December 7, Washington, D.C.

2013 "(Mobile) Home on the Range: Urban Precarity and the Middle-Class Aspirations of Mobile Home Owners in Lincoln, Nebraska." Paper. American Anthropological Association, November 24, Chicago, Illinois.

INVITED TALKS & FEATURED PUBLIC MEDIA

2024 "Left my appendix in West Virginia: Adventures in #vanthrolife." SSGS Research Brown Bag Series, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, February 29.

 "Manufactured Haunts: an Ethnographic and Narrative Analysis of the (Im)possibility of Haunted Mobile Home Parks." College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, February 18.

 "[Early Career Faculty Panel.](#)" Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL). Virtual roundtable, February 1.

2022 "[Research Day brings USM professors together in collaborative spirit.](#)" WDAM, November 4.

 "[Modern nomads: Madison couple ditch home, embrace van life.](#)" Wisconsin State Journal, September 30.

 "Professional Degrees for Anthropology Majors." Roundtable panel for the 2022 AAA Graduate Student Fair (virtual), April 14.

2021 "[Worthless: An Ethnography of Devaluation and Domicide in a Midwestern Trailer Park.](#)" Amherst College Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst, Massachusetts, February 10.

2019 "'Who are you calling trailer trash?' Applied Autoethnography as Critical Ethical Praxis." University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Science and Global Studies, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, February 18.

2018 "[Affordable Housing is Disappearing: These Mobile Home Residents are Fighting to Protect Theirs.](#)" TIME Magazine, November 30.

2017

“Bridging Identity, Building Community: Housing Inequalities in Boulder.” University of Colorado Boulder Women’s Resource Center, Boulder, Colorado, October 25.

“Deconstructing Whiteness: Intersections of Race and Class in Mobile Housing.” Guest lecture, ANTH 4020 Brown Studies: A Toolkit for and about the Mixed and Multiracial. University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, October 6.

“Lincoln Mobile Home Communities: Challenges and Opportunities.” Lincoln Community Foundation, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, April 18.

2016

[“Grad student is Margaret Mead of Lincoln’s mobile home courts.”](#) Lincoln Journal Star. June 28.

“Manufactured Housing and Seniors: Realities and Issues Living in a Lincoln-area Mobile Home Community.” Aging Partners, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 22.

[“PhD Student on Her Mobile Home Research in Lincoln.”](#) Radio interview. Our Street. KZUM. Lincoln, Nebraska, June 20.

“Lincoln’s Mobile Home Communities: A Brief Overview.” United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 9.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS & CERTIFICATES

2024	Certificate for Top Downloaded Paper for “Little White Lies: Hope and Untruth in (White) Mobile-Homeownership.” <i>Journal for the Anthropology of North America</i> .
2023	Certificate in Effective College Instruction, Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) and the American Council on Education
2022	Teaching Innovation Mini-Grant, Center for Faculty Development, University of Southern Mississippi. <i>Project Outcome:</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DanH8TkfdNQ .
2020	Certificate in Online Teaching, “Quality Matters: Applying the QM Rubric,” University of Southern Mississippi.
2018	Best Paper Award for “This Land is My Land: Absence and Ruination in the American Dream of (Mobile) Homeownership.” Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology. <i>Interview with Dr. Alex Jong-Seok Lee for 2018 City & Society Best Paper Award:</i> https://www.cityandsociety.org/best-paper-prize-award.html .
2017	Teaching Excellence Award, University of Colorado Boulder Pollitzer Student Travel Award, American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)

2015	Willena D. Cartwright Scholarship, University of Colorado Boulder Department of Anthropology
2014	Haskell-Haughtelin Scholarship, University of Colorado Boulder Department of Anthropology
2012	Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado (2024-current)

The Body: Anthropological Perspectives
 Topics in Anthropology: Hauntology

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (2020-2024)

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The Human Experience: A Global Perspective on Human Diversity (online)
 Anthropology Proseminar
 Introduction to Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology (in-person, online)

CROSS-LISTED GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Ethnographic Field Methods (summer 5-week course)
 American Folklore
 Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology: Applied Anthropology
 Practicing Anthropology: UX/Design Anthropology

GRADUATE COURSES

Seminar in Cultural Anthropology

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

Individual Directed Studies, Undergraduate
 Special Problems: Vampires & Post-Mortem Agency (Spring 2024)
 Special Problems: Museum Anthropology (Spring 2023)

Individual Directed Studies, Graduate

Special Problems: Museum Anthropology (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)
 Special Problems: Feminist Anthropology (Fall 2022)
 Special Problems: Anthropology & the Body (Fall 2022)

Internships, Undergraduate

Cooperative Internship with the Edward's Street Fellowship Center (Spring 2022, Fall 2022)

Internships, Graduate

Cooperative Internship with Dr. Jessica Valles, USM Undergraduate DEI Certificate Program (Fall 2022)
 Cooperative Internship with Coastal Family Health Center (Fall 2021)

Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts (2019-2020)

American Housing: Foundations and Futures (cross-listed with Sociology)

Front Range Community College, Fort Collins, Colorado (2019)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado (2013-2019)

Culture and Power (summer 5-week course)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (summer 5-week course)

America: An Anthropological Perspective (semester, summer 5-week, Maymester)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

2023-24	AAA Leadership Fellow , American Anthropological Association
2022-current	External reviewer , <i>Journal for the Anthropology of North America</i>
2022-2024	Editorial Board Member , <i>Home/Field</i> , Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA)
2022	Presenter, Roundtable discussion , “Professional Degrees for Anthropology Majors.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) Virtual Graduate Student Fair, April 14
2020-current	External reviewer , National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG), Law and Science Dissertation Grant (LSDG)
2017-2019	Contributing Editor , <i>NAPA Notes Newsletter</i> , National Association for Practicing Anthropologists (NAPA)

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2021-2022	Project Director , “The People of Edward’s Street” Ethnographic partnership between the Edward’s Street Fellowship Center in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and the ANT 429/529 Applied Anthropology and ANT 416/516 Ethnographic Methods courses to develop a visual ethnographic project titled “The People of Edward’s Street.” Students completed over 180+ hours of community service-learning for this project.
2020-2021	Project Director , Diabetes Navigator Rapid Ethnographic Assessment Ethnographic partnership between the Coastal Family Health Center (CFHC) in Biloxi, Mississippi, and the ANT 429/529 Applied Anthropology course to conduct a rapid ethnographic assessment (REA) to support grant-funded work with CFHC clients diagnosed with Type-2 diabetes and at least one comorbidity.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023	Senior Housing Consultant , <i>Pew Charitable Trusts</i> , Washington, D.C. Directed the “Borrower Stories” alternative home financing storytelling project with homeowners in 10+ states to support Pew’s Housing Policy Initiative .
2018-2019	Senior Researcher and Evaluation Associate , <i>Center of Effort LLC, National Centers for Families Learning (NCFL)</i> , Louisville, Kentucky Collected, analyzed, and reported on program data for 2Gen Family Literacy Programs in Dallas, TX; Columbus, OH; Grand Island, NE; and Arizona (statewide).
2011-2012	Grant Writer and Needs Assessment Coordinator , <i>Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Federal Programs, Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)</i> , Lincoln, Nebraska Conducted a needs assessment in 9 MHCs that surveyed 40 households in English and Spanish for a \$40 million US Department of Education grant proposal in cooperation with the University of Nebraska, the City of Lincoln, and 19 area nonprofit agencies.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA)
- Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA)
- Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA)
- Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA)
- National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA)
- Phil Beta Kappa National Honor Society
- Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society